United Nations A/HRC/37/NGO/27

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 February 2018

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirty-seventh session
26 February-23 March 2018
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 January 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.18-01582(E)
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Psychological Traumas of Military Violence in the Middle East

The current wars in the Middle East have changed the lives of children and the youth who are fighting for survival. The psychological traumas they have been inflicted with, have affected them over decades and is grappling with their bodies and souls. Thus, deprivation of social services, homelessness and cycles of violence has created a lost generation.

According to studies, people in the Middle East and North Africa suffer from chronic mental and physical sicknesses, fatalities caused by and psychological instability. Thus, immense psychological pains and chronic psycho-physical sicknesses as a result, has created a generation of disregarded children.

The social of the region over the last two decades, has made day-to-day living very dangerous. Violent events have notably increased leading to the high rate of anxiety, depression and other mental disorders. To better understand the unfolded catastrophe, we can imagine children from the age of 2 or 3 till 20 who have witnessed the destruction and war in Iraq. A generation is lost who has spent its golden years of life with the violent developments of the region. Witnessing the killing of family members in itself is a psychological catastrophe which alters life completely.

Studies indicate that till the end of 2015 the rate of individual acts of violence in the region has increased by 150 percent and existing figures show a suicide increase rate of 30,000 individuals.1 It is necessary to mention that the destroyed political integrity of these countries have prevented the mentally ill generation to be screened and has failed to take the necessary steps to be taken to treat them. Outside the conflict zones too, a flood of refugees has poured into the neighbouring countries, refugees who would rather get involved in dangerous acts than protecting their own health. They struggle for food and protection for their children in their fight for survival. For this reason and towards efforts to fulfil their fundamental and basic needs, they do dangerous things. It is clear that under these circumstances mental health is ignored, because the main concern of these individuals is food.

The lost Middle East generation must be saved through long-term and comprehensive investments, just as was done in post Second World War Europe. In this framework, the Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims recommends the key players of the region, such as the Persian Gulf Arab countries alongside the rest of the powerful governments of the region, to provide economic, political and social resources needed for saving the lost generation. A collective strong will can allocate a part of the vast Middle East wealth to putting out the fire that has been burning the region for decades and offer viable solutions to the current challenges.

1 http://www.healthdate.org/news-release-mental-illness-suicide-and-%E2%80%unteractable-violence%E2%80%99-creating-%E2%80%99lost-generation%E2%80%99-middle